

Final Report

SOLAR COOKERS FOR THREE RIVER VILLAGE, LONGWU TOWNSHIP, TONGREN COUNTY, HUANGNAN TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, QINGHAI PROVINCE, CHINA

made possible with the kind support of
KALLE MATTILA, KAARINA SERGEJEFF, AND NADJIA NOWAK
OF FINLAND

SUMMARY

What: Solar cookers for 113 impoverished Tibetans (25 families)

Where: Three River Village, Longwu Township, Tongren County, Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, PRC

Who: 25 Tibetan Families/ 113 individuals

Value: 25 Solar Cookers/193.6RMB= 4,841.10RMB (~6USD/person)

by

Rinchenkhar

early 2011

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear Kalle Mattila, Kaarina Sergejeff, and Nadja Nowak,

We express sincere gratitude for your help and support with this project that has brought important, positive change to the lives of 113 people (25 families) from Zeku County who have been recently resettled in Three River Village, Tongren County, Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, PR China. The officially given reason for resettling the community was to address overgrazing and desertification in the areas of the headwaters of the Yellow River, Yangtze River, and Mekong River to protect people downstream from such natural disasters as droughts, floods, and dust storms.

Poverty and unemployment are serious issues in Three River Village, which result from residents no longer have livestock to provide sustainable income. Resettlement dramatically undermined the villagers ability to meet the needs of basic food, children's education, and health care. After relocation, residents relied on government stipends of about 3,800RMB per family per year. This meager amount must meet all their expenses, including fuel.

Recipient families use the cookers to heat water, cook potatoes, boil noodles, and so on. This solar cooker project benefited 113 people at a cost of 6 USD per person. The total grant of 4,841.10RMB was used for the project. There were no administrative fees. Owing to local poverty, no local contribution was collected.

The cookers reduce the time women spend collecting firewood, donkey dung, and paper boxes to burn as fuel; villagers use much less fuel than before; villagers spend less money on fuel and thus have more funds to meet other expenses, less organic material such as dung and wood are collected from the surrounding area, benefitting the environment; and women and infants spend less time in smoky kitchens and thus are healthier.

Indoor air pollution is rated by the World Health Organization as the second most dangerous environmental health risk in rural areas (after dirty water and poor sanitation). These solar cookers lessen this health risk for 113 people and, in addition, reduce the collection of organic materials, benefitting the local environment and reduce villagers' expenses for buying fuel.

In short, you have made life easier and healthier for this community, saved them money, and also helped our planet.

With sincere thanks,

Rinchenkhar

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Shamo Wangdan (b 1968) is lives with her mother, husband, daughter, two sons, daughters-in-law, and grandsons. Her family used to own twenty yaks and led a sustainable life. After resettlement, her family has very little to spend on health concerns, children's education, and fuel. They no longer have access to yak dung and wood. The solar cooker has provided her family with more money to spend on other expenses because of less expenses on fuel.
2. Ms Tammgrin tsho (b 1965) lives with her three children on 3,800RMB a year. This does not meet the cost of medical expenses, food, education, clothes, fuel, electricity, water, and so on. The solar cooker has provided her family with more money to spend on other expenses because of reduced fuel expense.
3. Namkha (b. 1995) is the only child of a former herdsman. He and his mother now lack sustainable income that they had before through herding. Namkha is happy with the solar cooker because it reduces expenses for fuel.
4. Solar Cookers are delivered to Three River Village on 23 November 2010.
5. Villagers unload solar cookers.
6. Villager leader, Mr. Tsegothar, organizes safely unloading the solar cookers.
7. Mr. Shawothar (b 1950, back) lives with his son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. He reported that on a sunny day, only 10-15 minutes were needed for a kettle of water to boil. Food is also cooked with the solar cooker. He believes it will substantially reduce their expenses for fuel (coal, electricity, gas).









临夏县机驾中心

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RECIPIENTS

No.	Name	# of Solar Cooker	Signature	Date
1	ཉལ་མ།	1	ཉལ་མ།	Nov 23, 2010
2	འཛིགས་མ།	1	འཛིགས་མ།	Nov 23, 2010
3	འཛིགས་མ།	1	འཛིགས་མ།	Nov 23, 2010
4	མ་ཐང་ཁུལ།	1	མ་ཐང་ཁུལ།	Nov 23, 2010
5	ཐོ་ཐོ།	1	ཐོ་ཐོ།	Nov 23, 2010
6	ཐོ་ཐོ།	1	ཐོ་ཐོ།	Nov 23, 2010
7	ཐོ་ཐོ།	1	ཐོ་ཐོ།	Nov 23, 2010
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25	ཐོ་ཐོ།	1	ཐོ་ཐོ།	Nov 23, 2010